(12)特許協力条約に基づいて公開された国際出願

(19) 世界知的所有権機関 国際事務局



(43) 国際公開日 2002 年10 月3 日 (03.10.2002)

PCT

(10) 国際公開番号 WO 02/076522 A1

(51) 国際特許分類?:

A61L 27/00, A61F 2/28

(21) 国際出願番号:

PCT/JP02/02744

(22) 国際出願日:

2002年3月22日(22.03.2002)

(25) 国際出願の言語:

日本語

(26) 国際公開の言語:

日本語

(30) 優先権データ:

特願2001-84525 2001年3月23日(23.03.2001) JI

(71) 出願人 (米国を除く全ての指定国について): オリンパス光学工業株式会社 (OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO., LTD.) [JP/JP]: 〒151-0072 東京都 渋谷区 幡ヶ谷2丁目43番2号 Tokyo (JP). 独立行政法人産業技術総合研究所 (NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY) [JP/JP]; 〒100-0013 東京都千代田区 霞が関1丁目3番1号 Tokyo (JP).

(72) 発明者; および

(75) 発明者/出願人 (米国についてのみ): 袴塚康治 (HAKA-MAZUKA, Yasuharu) [JP/JP]; 〒151-0072 東京都 渋谷 区 幡ヶ谷 2 丁目 4 3番 2号 オリンパス光学工業株式 会社内 Tokyo (JP). 入江 洋之 (IRIE, Hiroyuki) [JP/JP]:

〒151-0072 東京都 渋谷区幡ヶ谷2丁目43番2号オリンパス光学工業株式会社内 Tokyo (JP). 井上晃 (IN-OUE, Hikaru) [JP/JP]; 〒151-0072 東京都 渋谷区 幡ヶ谷2丁目43番2号オリンパス光学工業株式会社内 Tokyo (JP). 増渕 良司 (MASUBUCHI, Ryouji) [JP/JP]; 〒151-0072 東京都 渋谷区幡ヶ谷2丁目43番2号オリンパス光学工業株式会社内 Tokyo (JP). 岡部洋(OK-ABE, Hiroshi) [JP/JP]; 〒151-0072 東京都 渋谷区幡ヶ谷2丁目43番2号オリンパス光学工業株式会社内 Tokyo (JP). 植村 壽公 (UEMURA, Toshimasa) [JP/JP]; 〒305-0044 茨城県 つくば市 並木3-674-101 [baraki (JP).

- (74) 代理人: 奈良 武 (NARA,Takeshi); 〒105-0013 東京都港区 浜松町 2 丁目 2 番 1 5 号 Tokyo (JP).
- (81) 指定国 (国内): CN, SG, US.
- (84) 指定国 (広域): ヨーロッパ特許 (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR).

添付公開書類:

国際調査報告書

2文字コード及び他の略語については、定期発行される各PCTガゼットの巻頭に掲載されている「コードと略語のガイダンスノート」を参照。

(54) Title: ARTIFICIAL BONE MATERIAL

(54) 発明の名称: 人工骨材

(57) Abstract: An artificial bone material which is highly compatible with the human body and enables favorable osteogenesis. Namely, bone marrow cells are incorporated into a porous ceramic material made of β -tricalcium phosphate.

✔ (57) 要約:

人体適合性が良好であり、骨形成を良好に行うことが可能な人工骨材を提供するものであり、β-リン酸三カルシウムからなる多孔質セラミックスの内部に、骨髄細胞を組み込む。



明 細 書

人 工 骨 材

5 技術分野

10

15

20

本発明は、骨欠損の修復に用いられる人工骨材に関する。

背景技術

近年、整形外科などの領域においては、様々な疾患によって生じる骨欠損の修復に、人工骨を用いることが普及している。人工骨の材料としては、リン酸カルシウム系のセラミックスが多く用いられている。ところが、リン酸カルシウム系セラミック材料は生体適合性に優れ、良好な骨伝導能を有し骨形成の足場としては作用するものの、骨欠損の重症度が大きい場合に対しては単独での修復は困難である。従って、このような症例に対しては、自家骨を移植する選択肢しかなく、採骨量に限りがある場合などは骨欠損の修復は困難であった。

このような背景から、骨欠損の重症度が高い症例に対しては、より骨形成能の高い、すなわち骨誘導活性を有する移植用材料が求められている。これを背景として、前記リン酸カルシウム系のセラミックス材料をキャリヤーとして骨髄細胞を培養した細胞組込み型人工骨の研究が行なわれている。

吉川らは、ヒト培養骨髄細胞を多孔質ハイドロキシアパタイト(HAP)と混和し、骨形成培地で3週間培養後、これをヌードマウス腹腔内に移植し、2ヶ月後に摘出、組織学的に評価したところ、有意な骨形成を確認している(日整会誌 73(3), S672)。

25 多孔質セラミックスに培養骨髄細胞を組み込む人工骨においては、次 のような課題がある。

10

15

20

25

まず、骨髄細胞を多孔質セラミックスの中心部まで侵入させることであるが、使用する多孔質セラミックスのサイズが大きくなると、骨髄細胞が中心部に入っていくのが困難となる。また、細胞が多孔質セラミックスの中心部まで侵入しても、血管が中心部まで行き渡らないと、酸素分圧が低下して骨芽細胞として機能しない問題がある。

次に、細胞を組み込むキャリヤーとする多孔質材料についての課題は以下の通りである。キャリアーとなる材料は次のような条件を満たしていることが必要である。キャリヤーは生体適合性が高くかつ培養細胞の活性の妨げにならないのはもちろんであるが、骨伝導能を有し、かつ移植後、骨の形成の進行とともにキャリヤー自身が吸収されることが重要である。キャリヤーとしてのコラーゲンやポリ乳酸グリコール酸などは、生分解性であり、キャリヤーとしての条件の内、分解・吸収性は満たしているが、骨伝導能に乏しく、この点で好ましくない。

一方、リン酸カルシウム系セラミックスは、骨伝導能に優れており、この点では好ましい。しかしリン酸カルシウムの中で人工骨としてもっとも一般的なHAPは、生体内では吸収されにくいため、吸収性の点で好ましくない。これに対してβ-リン酸三カルシウム(β-TCP)は、良好な吸収性を有しており、骨伝導能の性質と併せるとキャリヤーとしては最も好ましい材料である。

このような観点から、以前より β -TCPは単独で骨補填材として用いられている。しかし、A1 termattらは刊行物「Eur. J. Pediatr. Surg. 2, $180\sim182$ 」において、多孔質 β -TCPを骨嚢腫に適応して経過観察したところ、最長 γ 年でも依然として材料が補填部に残存していることを報告している。 β -TCPは基本的に吸収される性質を有しているが、このように長期に渡って残存するケースがあることは、一義的に β -TCPであれば良いというわけで

10

15

20

ないことを示している。

実用上において、 β - T C P の純度が問題となるものである。 β - T C P は一般的には、乾式で炭酸カルシウムとリン酸水素カルシウムとを 固相反応させる方法や、湿式でカルシウム(C a) イオンとリン (P) イオンとを反応させる方法により製造される。

本発明は、以上のことを踏まえてなされたものであり、 β -TCPと 培養骨髄細胞との複合により、骨形成を促進する理想的な人工骨材を提供することを目的とする。

発明の開示

上記目的を達成するため、請求項1の発明の人工骨材は、βーリン酸 三カルシウムからなる多孔質セラミックスの内部に、骨髄細胞が組み込 まれていることを特徴とする。

請求項2の発明は、請求項1記載の人工骨材であって、前記骨髄細胞に、骨形成に寄与する細胞増殖因子がさらに複合されていることを特徴とする。

請求項3の発明は、請求項1記載の人工骨材であって、前記多孔質セ 25 ラミックスは、60~90%の気孔率であり、複数の気孔が連通した大 きさ50~1000 μ mのマクロポア及び大きさ2 μ m以下のミクロポ

15

アを有していることを特徴とする。

請求項4の発明は、請求項1または3記載の人工骨材であって、前記 多孔質セラミックスは、メカノケミカル法により合成されたβーリン酸 三カルシウム粉末を原料として用い、成形後、焼結して形成されている ことを特徴とする。

請求項5の発明は、請求項1または2記載の人工骨材であって、前記骨髄細胞は、患者から採取して培養した培養細胞であることを特徴とする。

請求項6の発明は、請求項5記載の人工骨材であって、前記培養細胞 10 は、培養中に電気的または/及び機械的刺激が与えられていることを特 徴とする。

請求項7の発明は、請求項5または6記載の人工骨材であって、前記培養細胞は、下記(a)~(c)の内の少なくとも一つの手段または組み合わせの手段によって多孔質セラミックスの内部に播種されることを特徴とする。

- (a) 減圧下または加圧下で培養細胞を播種する。
- (b) 減圧と加圧を繰り返して培養細胞を播種する。
- (c) 遠心力を作用させて培養細胞を播種する。

発明を実施するための最良の形態

20 本発明の人工骨材は、β-TCPからなる多孔質セラミックスの内部に、播種によって骨髄細胞を組み込んだものである。多孔質セラミックスの形状としては、例えば、ブロック状或いは顆粒状とすることができる。

多孔質セラミックスの中心部まで細胞を侵入させるには、多孔質セラ 25 ミックス材料に培養骨髄細胞を播種する際に、減圧下または加圧下で行 なったり、減圧と加圧を繰り返して印加したり、または遠心力を作用さ

10

15

20

25

せることにより確実に行うことができる。これにより、骨髄細胞が多孔質セラミックスの中心部まで入ることが可能となる。この場合、これらの手段を複数組み合わせて行うことも有効である。

また、細胞培養中に電場を印加する、等方圧を加える、衝撃波を加えるなどの電気的または機械的刺激を施すことにより、細胞の増殖性が増加するため、活性も維持される。

多孔質セラミックスの内部での血管新生は、VEGFなどの血管新生に寄与する誘導因子を骨髄細胞に複合することにより可能となる。この場合、VEGFの発現ベクターを用いた遺伝子導入により複合することが好ましい。

また培養細胞に加えて、VEGFだけでなく、骨形成に寄与する細胞増殖因子を複合することは、さらに良好な骨形成を実現することができる。例えば、BMP、FGF、TGF $-\beta$ 、IGF、PDGFなどの骨形成に寄与する細胞増殖因子を用いることにより、骨形成を確実に行うことができる。

β-TCPからなる多孔質セラミックスと培養骨髄細胞とを複合した 人工骨材は骨形成を促進する。この人工骨材において、β-TCPとし ては、高純度で優れた骨伝導能と吸収性を有するものを用いる。

β-TCPからなる多孔質セラミックスは、複数の気孔が連通したマクロポア及びこれよりも小さなミクロポアを有しており、その気孔率は60~90%が良好である。マクロポアとしては、50~1000μmの大きさが良好であり、100~500μmの大きさがさらに良好である。マクロポアとしては、全気孔の容積率の30~70%程度存在していることが好ましい。このマクロポアは骨髄細胞のセラミックス内での侵入や血管新生などに寄与する。

ミクロポアは2μm以下の大きさが良好であり、1μm以下がさらに

10

15

20

25

好ましい。また、ミクロポアは全気孔の容積率の10~40%程度存在 していることが好ましい。このミクロポアは吸収のされ易さなど化学的 な作用を促進するのに寄与する。

高純度な β -TCPは湿式粉砕法であるメカノケミカル法で作製するものが、骨組織の代替材料として用いる材料の成分として優れている。このメカノケミカル法は、炭酸カルシウムとリン酸水素カルシウム2水和物とを、CaとPのモル比が1. 5となるように秤量し、これらの粉末をボールミルにて湿式粉砕し、これにより得られるスラリーを乾燥し、その後、 $720\sim900$ で焼成して β -TCPを得るものである。この方法によれば、原料の秤量値によりCaとPの比が制御でき、純度が高くかつ焼結性に優れた β -TCPが得られる。

優れた骨伝導能と吸収性を有する β -TCPからなる多孔質セラミックスは、以下のように作製する。湿式粉砕法により得た β -TCP粉末に界面活性剤(解膠剤)を加えて湿式発泡成形した後、乾燥し、950~1050℃の温度で焼成して多孔体とする。この方法により、セラミックス全体の気孔率が60~90%であり、複数の気孔が連通した大きさ $50~1000\mu$ mのマクロポアが全気孔の30~70%の容積率で存在し、しかも、 2μ m以下の大きさのミクロポアが全気孔の10~40%の容積率で存在する多孔質セラミックスを得ることができる。

以上のようなβ-TCPからなる多孔質セラミックスと培養骨髄細胞を複合させて人工骨材とすることにより、良好に骨形成を促進する人工骨材とすることができる

(実施例1)

炭酸カルシウム粉末とリン酸水素カルシウム2水和物をモル比で1: 2の割合で秤量し、純水とともにボールミルポットに入れ、約1日ボー ルミルで混合粉砕した。得られたスラリーを約80℃で乾燥し、その 後、750℃で焼成した。得られた粉末は、焼結性に優れた高純度な β - T C P セラミックスであった。

この粉末に純水とアクリル酸アンモニウム系の解膠剤とポリオキシエチレンアルキルフェニルエーテル系の界面活性剤を添加し、混合攪拌して発泡スラリーを調製した。この発泡スラリーを乾燥させ、その後1050で焼成して β -TCPの多孔質セラミックスを得た。この多孔質セラミックスは気孔率が75%であり、気孔径は100~ 500μ mおよび1~ 0.1μ mの2つの領域に分布があるものであった。

(実施例2)

10 実施例1で作製したβ-TCPの多孔質セラミックスを足場材料として、骨髄由来骨芽細胞様初代培養細胞を播種し、インビトロで培養し骨形成の種となる骨組織を形成させ、生体内に移植し、移植した組織から多量の骨組織を形成した。具体的な手法は以下のとおりである。

骨髄細胞を採取し、培養フラスコに移しMEM系培地に10-15%のFBS(Fetal Bovine Serum)を加えたものを用いて、約10日間5%のCO2雰囲気下、37%で培養する。次に、トリプシン処理により細胞を培養フラスコから剥がした後、ブロック状の β -TCPからなる多孔質セラミックスに播種する。培地はMEM系培地に10-15%のFBS(Fetal Bovine Serum)を加えたものを用いる。

15

20

25

sphate、 $50\mu g/mloascorbic$ acide mえた ものに交換し、<math>2日おきの培地交換を行ないながら約2週間、5%のCO2雰囲気下、37Cでインキュベートする。その後ブロックごと生体 内に移植を行なう。

その後、Fisher rat大腿骨から採取した骨髄液を、上記の方法で培養し、 β - T C P の多孔質セラミックスからなるブロック上に播種し、2 週間培養した後、別 の Fisher rat の皮下に移植し、3 週間後に摘出した。これを、H E 染色により調べたところ良好な骨形成を確認することができた。

10 (実施例3)

5

15

20

25

実施例1で作製した β -TCPの多孔質セラミックスに、細胞増殖因子を吸着させて播種した。細胞増殖因子としては、VEGF、BMP、FGF、 $FGF-\beta$ 、IGF、PDGFをそれぞれ用いた。そして、インビトロで培養し骨形成の種となる骨組織を形成させ、生体内に移植し、移植した組織から多量の骨組織を形成した。具体的な手法は以下のとおりである。

上記細胞増殖因子をそれぞれ採取し、培養フラスコに移しMEM系培地に10-15%のFBS(Fetal Bovine Serum)を加えたものを用いて、約10日間5%のCO $_2$ 雰囲気下、37%で培養する。次に、トリプシン処理により細胞を培養フラスコから剥がした後、ブロック状の β -TCPからなる多孔質セラミックスに播種する。培地はMEM系培地に10-15%のFBS(Fetal Bovine Serum)を加えたものを用いる。

播種に際しては、各細胞増殖因子を減圧下で播種、加圧下で播種及び 減圧と加圧との繰り返しを行って播種する手法をそれぞれ行うと共に、 遠心力を作用させて播種する手法を行い、それぞれの播種条件での試験

10

15

20

体を作製した。

細胞増殖因子の濃度は $5 \text{ mm} \times 5 \text{ mm} \times 5 \text{ mm}$ のブロックに播種する場合、1 c c の培地あたり1 0 0 万個以上の細胞を必要とする。1-3 時間、5 % の $C \text{ O}_2$ 雰囲気下で、3 7 \mathbb{C} でインキュベートした後、培地をMEM系培地に1 0-15 % のF BS (Fetal Bovine Serum) を加えたものをベースに、s upplement として1 0-8 M の d e x a methas one、1 0 m d m d e x a methas one、1 0 m d m d e x a methas one corbic acide かかえたものに交換し、2 H おきの培地交換を行ないながら約2週間、5 % の $C \text{ O}_2$ 雰囲気下、3 7 \mathbb{C} でインキュベートする。その後ブロックごと生体内に移植を行なう。

その後、Fisher rat大腿骨から採取した骨髄液を、上記の方法で培養し、 β - T C P の多孔質セラミックスからなるブロック上に播種し、2週間培養した後、別のFisher ratの皮下に移植し、3週間後に摘出した。これを、H E 染色により調べたところ良好な骨形成を確認することができた。

産業上の利用可能性

以上のように、本発明によれば、β-TCPの多孔質セラミックスに 骨髄細胞を組み込むことにより、良好に骨形成を促進することが可能な 人工骨材とすることができる。また、等方圧等の機械的刺激やVEGF のような細胞増殖因子を複合することにより、さらに確実に骨形成する ことができ、これらによって有用性を向上させることができる。

請 求 の 範 囲

- 1. βーリン酸三カルシウムからなる多孔質セラミックスの内部 に、骨髄細胞が組み込まれていることを特徴とする人工骨材。
- 5 2. 前記骨髄細胞に、骨形成に寄与する細胞増殖因子がさらに複合 されていることを特徴とする請求項1記載の人工骨材。
 - 3. 前記多孔質セラミックスは、60~90%の気孔率であり、複数の気孔が連通した大きさ $50~1000\mu$ mのマクロポア及び大きさ 2μ m以下のミクロポアを有していることを特徴とする請求項1記載の人工骨材。
 - 4. 前記多孔質セラミックスは、メカノケミカル法により合成されたβ-リン酸三カルシウム粉末を原料として用い、成形後、焼結して形成されていることを特徴とする請求項1または3記載の人工骨材。
- 5. 前記骨髄細胞は、患者から採取して培養した培養細胞であるこ 15 とを特徴とする請求項1または2記載の人工骨材。
 - 6. 前記培養細胞は、培養中に電気的または/及び機械的刺激が与えられていることを特徴とする請求項5記載の人工骨材。
- 7. 前記培養細胞は、下記(a)~(c)の内の少なくとも一つの 手段または組み合わせの手段によって多孔質セラミックスの内部に播種 20 されることを特徴とする請求項5または6記載の人工骨材。
 - (a) 減圧下または加圧下で培養細胞を播種する。
 - (b) 減圧と加圧を繰り返して培養細胞を播種する。
 - (c)遠心力を作用させて培養細胞を播種する。

10

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP02/02744

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int. C1 ² A61L27/00, A61F2/28 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y					
According to International Patent Classification (JFC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int.Cl7 A61L27/00, A61F2/28 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y					
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int. c1 ⁷ A61L27/00, A61F2/28 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y JP 8-112341 A (The Japan Steel Works, Ltd.), 1-7 Full text (Family: none) Y JP 2001-17454 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 2 January, 2001 (23.01.01), Full text (Family: none) Y Wo 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland Clinic Found), 2,5-7 25 November, 1999 (25.11.99), Full text 4 A0 9941994 A 4 US 6049026 A EV Purther documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. Septial extegeries of cited documents: and considered to impression of the search of the actual of the calcument published on or after the international filling date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to considered to be of particular relevance and capacitable of the calcument of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be occument to frame the priority of the province and comment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive and comment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive and comment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive and comment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive and comment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive and comment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive accomment of convolve an inventive accomment of convolve an inventive accomment of conv	1110.	.CI ADILZ//UU, AUIFZ/20			
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int. c1 ⁷ A61L27/00, A61F2/28 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y JP 8-112341 A (The Japan Steel Works, Ltd.), 1-7 Full text (Family: none) Y JP 2001-17454 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 2 January, 2001 (23.01.01), Full text (Family: none) Y Wo 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland Clinic Found), 2,5-7 25 November, 1999 (25.11.99), Full text 4 A0 9941994 A 4 US 6049026 A EV Purther documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. Septial extegeries of cited documents: and considered to impression of the search of the actual of the calcument published on or after the international filling date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to considered to be of particular relevance and capacitable of the calcument of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be occument to frame the priority of the province and comment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive and comment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive and comment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive and comment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive and comment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive and comment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive accomment of convolve an inventive accomment of convolve an inventive accomment of conv	<u>.</u> .				
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int.Cl? A61L27/00, A61F2/28 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y JP 8-112341 A (The Japan Steel Works, Ltd.), 1-7 O7 May, 1996 (07.05.96), Full text (Family: none) Y JP 2001-17454 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 1-7 Full text (Family: none) Y W0 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland Clinic Found), 2, 5-7 Electronic data base consulted during the international filing data and the continuation of Box C. Secalt categories of cited documents: a Listed in the continuation of Box C. Secalt categories of cited documents: a Listed in the continuation of Box C. Secalt categories of cited documents: a Listed in the continuation of Box C. Secalt categories of cited documents: a Listed in the continuation of Box C. Secalt categories of cited documents: a Listed in the continuation of Box C. Secalt categories of cited documents: a Listed in the continuation of Box C. Secalt categories of cited documents: a Listed in the continuation of Box C. Secalt categories of cited documents: a Listed in the continuation of Box C. Secalt categories of cited documents: a Listed but be a Listed document to Endowed the principle or theory worderlying the invention considerated to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone and the specification of the cited categories of cited document to considerate of cited considerated to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone and the principle or the cited on the continuation of box C. Second and the principle or the cited on the continuation of other means and the principle or the considerated to involve an inve			national classification and IP	.c	
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y	•				
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y JP 8-112341 A (The Japan Steel Works, Ltd.), 707 May, 1996 (07.05.96), Full text (Family: none) Y JP 2001-17454 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 23 January, 2001 (23.01.01), Full text (Family: none) Y WO 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland Clinic Found), 25 November, 1999 (25.11.99), Full text 4 AU 9941994 A & US 6049026 A 4 EP 1085842 A2 Further document daffning the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance: The document daffning the general state of the art which is not considered document doubts on priority claim(3) or which is created to establish the publication date of another clattion or other special reason (as specified) The document which may throw doubts on priority claim(3) or which is created to establish the publication date of another clattion or other special reason (as specified) The considered of the control	Minimum d	locumentation searched (classification system followed	by classification symbols)		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y	1110	CI ACIDATION, ACIEA, 20			
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y					
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y	Documenta	tion searched other than minimum documentation to the	ne extent that such documen	ts are included	in the fields searched
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y JP 8-112341 A (The Japan Steel Works, Ltd.), 1-7 Full text (Family: none) Y JP 2001-17454 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 1-7 Full text (Family: none) Y Wo 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland Clinic Found), 23 January, 2001 (23.01.01), Full text (Family: none) Y Wo 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland Clinic Found), 2,5-7 25 November, 1999 (25.11.99), Full text 6 AU 9941994 A 6 US 6049026 A 6 EP 1085842 A2 EV Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. The document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance. The document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is clied to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) The document interfing to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other special reason (as specified) The document interfing to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international fling date but later The document interfing to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international fling date but later The document published on or after the international fling date but later The document interfing to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international fling date but later The document published on or after the international fling date but later The document defining to every the later document is considered to involve an inventive step when the document is accument provided to involve an inventive step when the document is consi			DO ORIOLE WILL I	to are incl.	In the nerge contact
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y JP 8-112341 A (The Japan Steel Works, Ltd.), 1-7 Full text (Family: none) Y JP 2001-17454 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 1-7 Full text (Family: none) Y Wo 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland Clinic Found), 2, 5-7 EVALUATE STATES A (US 6049026 A EVEN 1999 (25.11.99), Full text & AU 9941994 A & US 6049026 A EVEN 1995 (25.11.99), Full text & AU 9941994 A & US 6049026 A EVEN 1995 (25.11.99) (2					
Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y JP 8-112341 A (The Japan Steel Works, Ltd.), 1-7 O7 May, 1996 (07.05.96), Full text (Family: none) Y JP 2001-17454 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 1-7 23 January, 2001 (23.01.01), Full text (Family: none) Y W0 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland Clinic Found), 25 November, 1999 (25.11.99), Full text & AU 9941994 A & US 6049026 A & EP 1085842 A2 W	Electronic d	lata base consulted during the international search (nar	ne of data base and, where p	oracticable, sear	rch terms used)
Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y JP 8-112341 A (The Japan Steel Works, Ltd.), 1-7 O7 May, 1996 (07.05.96), Full text (Family: none) Y JP 2001-17454 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 1-7 23 January, 2001 (23.01.01), Full text (Family: none) Y W0 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland Clinic Found), 25 November, 1999 (25.11.99), Full text & AU 9941994 A & US 6049026 A & EP 1085842 A2 W					
Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y JP 8-112341 A (The Japan Steel Works, Ltd.), 1-7 O7 May, 1996 (07.05.96), Full text (Family: none) Y JP 2001-17454 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 1-7 23 January, 2001 (23.01.01), Full text (Family: none) Y W0 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland Clinic Found), 25 November, 1999 (25.11.99), Full text & AU 9941994 A & US 6049026 A & EP 1085842 A2					
Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Y JP 8-112341 A (The Japan Steel Works, Ltd.), 1-7 O7 May, 1996 (07.05.96), Full text (Family: none) Y JP 2001-17454 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 1-7 23 January, 2001 (23.01.01), Full text (Family: none) Y W0 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland Clinic Found), 25 November, 1999 (25.11.99), Full text 4 AU 9941994 A & US 6049026 A & EP 1085842 A2	C DOCU	MENTS CONSIDERED TO BE BEI EVANT			
Y JP 8-112341 A (The Japan Steel Works, Ltd.), 1-7 O7 May, 1996 (07.05.96), Full text (Family: none) Y JP 2001-17454 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 1-7 23 January, 2001 (23.01.01), Full text (Family: none) Y WO 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland Clinic Found), 2,5-7 25 November, 1999 (25.11.99), Full text 4 AU 9941994 A 4 US 6049026 A EP 1085842 A2		<u> </u>			
O7 May, 1996 (07.05.96), Full text (Family: none)					Relevant to claim No.
Full text (Family: none) Y	Y		eel Works, Ltd.)	,	1-7
Special categories of cited documents:	!				
Y Wo 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland Clinic Found), 2,5-7 25 November, 1999 (25.11.99), Full text	l l	•			•
Y Wo 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland Clinic Found), 2,5-7	v	TD 2001-17454 A (Olympus On			1 7
Full text (Family: none) W 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland Clinic Found), 25 November, 1999 (25.11.99), Full text & AU 9941994 A & US 6049026 A & EP 1085842 A2 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance: "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention date of counsent which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document inference of the same patient family annex. "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is such somewhere the comment is combined with one or more other such documents; such combined with one or more other such documents; such combined with one or more other such documents; such combined with one or more other such documents; such combined with one or more other such documents; such combined with one or more other such documents; such combined with one or more other such documents; such combined with one or more other such documents; such combined with one or more other such documents; such combined with one or more other such documents; such combined with one or more other such documents; such combined with one or more other such documents; such combined with one or more other such documents; such combined with one or more other such documents; such combined with one or more other such documents; such combined with one or more other such do	1	23 January, 2001 (23.01.01),	Clcar Co., ncu.,	′	1-/
Y WO 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland Clinic Found), 25 November, 1999 (25.11.99), Full text A AU 9941994 A & US 6049026 A Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex. ** Special categories of cited documents: document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance artier document but published on or after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention cannot be considered to be of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to be of successful consument of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means when the document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Authorized officer		Full text			
Z5 November, 1999 (25.11.99), Full text		(Family: none)			
Z5 November, 1999 (25.11.99), Full text	Y	WO 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland C)	linic Found),		2.5-7
Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. * Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filling date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filling date but later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search O7 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office See patent family annex. "T" later document published after the international filling date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such comment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such comment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such comment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such comment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such comment of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when		25 November, 1999 (25.11.99),		1	ω, ∼ .
Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. * Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search O7 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office See patent family annex. "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or			C040026 A	1	
Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex. "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention cannot be considered to be of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office			6049020 A		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such document is combined with one or more other such document of particular relevance; the claimed invention considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention of the considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention of the considered to involve an inventive step when the document is a combined					
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such document is combined with one or more other such document of particular relevance; the claimed invention considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention of the considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention of the considered to involve an inventive step when the document is a combined			·	İ	
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such document is combined with one or more other such document of particular relevance; the claimed invention considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention of the considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention of the considered to involve an inventive step when the document is a combined]	
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such document is combined with one or more other such document of particular relevance; the claimed invention considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention of the considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention of the considered to involve an inventive step when the document is a combined	Furthe		Can natural family or		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention document in considered novel or cannot be considered novel					·
considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office understand the principle or theory underlying the invention document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Authorized officer Authorized officer	"A" docume	ent defining the general state of the art which is not	priority date and not in	conflict with the	e application but cited to
date document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed of the combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art document member of the same patent family **A** Authorized officer	consider	red to be of particular relevance	understand the principle	le or theory under	rlying the invention
cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art document member of the same patent family "&" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art document member of the same patent family 25 June, 2002 (25.06.02) Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office	date		considered novel or car	nnot be considere	
special reason (as specified) document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Date of mailing of the international search report 25 June, 2002 (25.06.02) Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office Considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report 25 June, 2002 (25.06.02) Authorized officer	cited to	establish the publication date of another citation or other	"Y" document of particular	relevance; the cl	aimed invention cannot be
means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Date of mailing of the international search 25 June, 2002 (25.06.02) Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office Combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search 25 June, 2002 (25.06.02)	"O" docume	reason (as specified) ont referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other	considered to involve a combined with one or n	an inventive step more other such o	when the document is documents, such
Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 June, 2002 (07.06.02) Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office Date of mailing of the international search report 25 June, 2002 (25.06.02) Authorized officer	"P" docume	ent published prior to the international filing date but later	combination being obvi	ious to a person s	skilled in the art
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office Authorized officer	Date of the ac	actual completion of the international search			
Japanese Patent Office	07 υι	ıne, 2002 (07.06.02)	25 June, 200	02 (25.06	5.02)
			Authorized officer		
Facsimile No. Telephone No.	Japar	nese Patent Office			
ů	Facsimile No	s.	Telephone No.		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/JP02/02744

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim		
Y	EP 987032 A1 (Isotis BV), 22 March, 2000 (22.03.00), Full text & AU 9947463 A & JP 2000-93504 A & CA 2282075 A & US 2002/35402 A	3-4	
Y	<pre>JP 1-108143 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 25 April, 1989 (25.04.89), Full text (Family: none)</pre>	4	
Y	JP 10-243996 A (Japan Science and Technology Corp.), 14 September, 1998 (14.09.98), Full text (Family: none)	5-7	
	·		

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (July 1998)

	国际调查報告	国际山殿鱼方	PCI/JPU	2/02/44
A. 発明の	属する分野の分類(国際特許分類(IPC))			
Int.	. Cl ⁷ A61L 27/00, A61F 2	2/28		
	行った分野 最小限资料(国際特許分類(IPC))			
Int.	Cl ⁷ A61L 27/00, A61F 2	2/28		
最小限資料以外	ーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーーー			
国際調査で使用	用した電子データベース (データベースの名称、	、調査に使用した用語)		
C. 関連する	ると認められる文献			
引用文献の				関連する
カテゴリー*			所の表示	請求の範囲の番号
Y	JP 8-112341 A (株式: 1996.05.07, 全文 (ファ:			1 – 7
Y	JP 2001-17454 A (2 2001.01.23,全文(ファ		类株式会社)	1 - 7
Y	WO 99/59500 A2 (CLE 1999. 11. 25, 全文 &AU 9941994 A &U: &EP 1085842 A2	•	ŕ	2, 5-7
X C欄の続き	たにも文献が列挙されている。	□ パテントファ:	ミリーに関する別	紙を参照。
* 引用文献のカテゴリー 「A」特に関連のある文献ではなく、一般的技術水準を示すもの 「E」国際出願日前の出願または特許であるが、国際出願日以後に公表された文献であって出願と矛盾するものではなく、発明の原理又は理論の理解のために引用するもの 「X」特に関連のある文献であって、当該文献のみで発明の新規性又は進歩性がないと考えられるもの「Y」特に関連のある文献であって、当該文献と他の1以文献(理由を付す) 「O」口頭による開示、使用、展示等に言及する文献「P」国際出願日前で、かつ優先権の主張の基礎となる出願「&」同一パテントファミリー文献				
国際調査を完了した日				
· 日本国 到	の名称及びあて先 関特許庁(ISA/JP) 『便番号100-8915 『千代田区霞が関三丁目4番3号	特許庁審査官(権限の 八原 由美 電話番号 03-35	子(原)	4C 9261 内線 3451

国際調査報告

C (読き) 関連すると数められる支献 関連する 別用文献の カアデリー* 関連主意 別用文献の 2000.03.22,全文 &AU 9947463 A &JP 2000-93504 A &CA 2282075 A &US 2002/35402 A 第本の範囲の番号 Y JP 1-108143 A (オリンパス光学工業株式会社) 1989.04.25,全文(ファミリーなし) 4 Y JP 10-243996 A (科学技術振興事業団) 1998.09.14,全文(ファミリーなし) 5-7			
カテゴリー*		関連すると認められる文献	mgs sales 3
Y EP 987032 A1 (ISOTIS BV) 20000.03.22, 全文 &AU 9947463 A &JP 2000~93504 A &CA 2282075 A &US 2002/35402 A Y JP 1-108143 A (オリンパス光学工業株式会社) 1989.04.25, 全文 (ファミリーなし) Y JP 10-243996 A (科学技術振興事業団) 1998.09.14, 全文 (ファミリーなし) 5-7		引用文献名 及び一部の第所が関連するときけ その関連する第所の事子	
2000.03.22,全文 &AU 9947463 A &JP 2000-93504 A &CA 2282075 A &US 2002/35402 A Y JP 1-108143 A (オリンパス光学工業株式会社) 1989.04.25,全文(ファミリーなし) Y JP 10-243996 A (科学技術振興事業団) 1998.09.14,全文(ファミリーなし)			
 &AU 9947463 A &JP 2000-93504 A &CA 2282075 A &US 2002/35402 A Y JP 1-108143 A (オリンパス光学工業株式会社) 1989.04.25,全文(ファミリーなし) Y JP 10-243996 A (科学技術振興事業団) 1998.09.14,全文(ファミリーなし) 	ı x		3-4
&CA 2282075 A &US 2002/35402 A Y JP 1-108143 A (オリンパス光学工業株式会社) 1989.04.25, 全文(ファミリーなし) Y JP 10-243996 A (科学技術振興事業団) 1998.09.14, 全文(ファミリーなし) 5-7		·	
Y JP 1-108143 A (オリンパス光学工業株式会社) 1989.04.25,全文(ファミリーなし) Y JP 10-243996 A (科学技術振興事業団) 1998.09.14,全文(ファミリーなし) 5-7			
1989.04.25,全文(ファミリーなし) Y JP 10-243996 A(科学技術振興事業団) 1998.09.14,全文(ファミリーなし) 5-7		$\begin{bmatrix} aca & 2202010 & A & acos & 2002/35402 & A \\ & & & & & & \end{bmatrix}$	
1989.04.25,全文(ファミリーなし) Y JP 10-243996 A(科学技術振興事業団) 1998.09.14,全文(ファミリーなし) 5-7			1 4
Y JP 10-243996 A (科学技術振興事業団) 1998.09.14,全文 (ファミリーなし) 5-7			-
1998.09.14,全文(ファミリーなし)	}		
1998.09.14,全文(ファミリーなし)	Y	JP 10-243996 A (科学技術振興事業団)	5 – 7
	-		
	1		
		·	
			_
		·	
			[
·			

様式PCT/ISA/210 (第2ページの続き) (1998年7月)



Europäisches Patentamt European Patent Office Office européen des brevets



(11) EP 1 378 256 A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

published in accordance with Art. 158(3) EPC

(43) Date of publication: 07.01.2004 Bulletin 2004/02

(21) Application number: 02708637.0

(22) Date of filing: 22.03.2002

(51) Int Cl.7: **A61L 27/00**, A61F 2/28

(86) International application number: PCT/JP2002/002744

(87) International publication number: WO 2002/076522 (03.10.2002 Gazette 2002/40)

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR

(30) Priority: 23.03.2001 JP 2001084525

(71) Applicants:

 Olympus Optical Co., Ltd. Tokyo 151-0072 (JP)

 National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology Tokyo 100-0013 (JP)

(72) Inventors:

 HAKAMAZUKA, Yasuharu, Olympus Corporation Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0072 (JP) • IRIE, Hiroyuki, Olympus Corporation Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0072 (JP)

 INOUE, Hikaru, Olympus Corporation Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0072 (JP)

 MASUBUCHI, Ryouji, Olympus Corporation Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0072 (JP)

 OKABE, Hiroshi, Olympus Corporation Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0072 (JP)

UEMURA, Toshimasa
 Tsukuba-shi, Ibaraki 305-0044 (JP)

(74) Representative:

von Hellfeld, Axel, Dr. Dipl.-Phys. et al Wuesthoff & Wuesthoff Patent- und Rechtsanwälte Schweigerstrasse 2 81541 München (DE)

(54) ARTIFICIAL BONE MATERIAL

(57) An artificial bone material having a satisfactory compatibility with a human body and capable of effecting osteogenesis satisfactorily which is obtained by integrating a marrow cell in a porous ceramic consisting of β -tricalcium phosphate.

Description

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to an artificial bone material employed for repairing bone defects.

1

BACKGROUND ART

[0002] Recently, artificial bones have been increasingly employed in the field of, for example, orthopedics for repairing bone defects caused by various diseases. The artificial bone is generally made of calcium phosphate-based ceramic. This ceramic is highly biocompatible, has satisfactory bone conductivity, and acts as a foothold for osteogenesis. However, the calcium phosphate-based ceramic when employed alone cannot serve to repair a highly severe bone defect. Accordingly, the only option an autograft implantation, and hence it is difficult to repair the bone defect when the amount of the bone to be collected is limited or in some other situations.

[0003] Under such a circumstance, an implantation material which has a further higher osteogenetic ability, i.e., has a bone-inducing activity, is demanded in a case where severity of the bone defect is high. To respond to such a demand, a cell-incorporated artificial bone obtained by incubating a marrow cell using a calcium phosphate-based ceramic material described above as a carrier has been investigated.

[0004] Yoshikawa et al. observed significant osteogenesis when they mixed cultured human marrow cells with porous hydroxyapatite (HAP), incubated the hydroxyapatite in an osteogenetic medium for 3 weeks, implanted the incubated hydroxyapatite into an abdominal cavity of a nude mouse, extracted the hydroxyapatite after 2 months, and then made histological evaluation of the hydroxyapatite (J. Jpn. Orthop. Assoc., 73 (3), S672).

[0005] An artificial bone obtained by incorporating cultured marrow cells into a porous ceramic is associated with the following problems.

[0006] Firstly, the introduction of marrow cells into a central portion of a porous ceramic makes it difficult-for the marrow cell to enter the central portion of the ceramic when the porous ceramic used has a large size. In addition, even when the cell is introduced into the central portion of the porous ceramic, the cell cannot serve as an osteoblast under a reduced partial pressure of oxygen resulting from the absence of enough blood vessels reaching the central portion of the porous ceramic.

[0007] Secondly, a porous material as a carrier for incorporating a cell has the following problems. A material serving as a carrier should fulfill the following conditions. While it is a matter of course that the carrier should be highly biocompatible and should not interfere with the activity of the cultured cells, it is important that the carrier should have a bone conductivity and after implantation,

the implanted carrier itself should be absorbed gradually as the osteogenesis proceeds. While collagen or polylactate glycolate as a carrier is biodegradable and satisfactory with regard to the decomposition and absorption performances out of the requirements for a carrier, collagen or polylactate glycolate has a poor bone conductivity and is undesirable in this respect.

[0008] On the other hand, a calcium phosphate-based ceramic is excellent in the bone conductivity, and it is preferable in this respect. Nevertheless, an HAP, which is most common as an artificial bone among calcium phosphates, is not preferable in respect of the absorption performance because of its poor in vivo absorption behavior. On the contrary, β -tricalcium phosphate (β -TCP) exhibits a satisfactory absorption performance. Taking this into consideration in combination with its bone conduction performance, β -TCP has been considered to be the most preferable material as a carrier.

[0009] From such a viewpoint, β -TCP has been employed alone as a bone prosthetic material. However, Altermatt et al. reported in Eur. J. Pediatr. Surg., 2, 180-182 reported that when applied to a bone cyst and subjected to a follow-up observation, porous β -TCP still remained in the prosthetic site even after a period as long as 7 years. While β -TCP naturally has an ability to be absorbed, it sometimes remains for such a long period, suggesting that it is not always sufficient that β -TCP is used.

[0010] Practically, the purity of β-TCP should be considered. β-TCP is produced generally by a dry process in which calcium carbonate and calcium hydrogen phosphate are subjected to a solid phase reaction or by a wet process in which a calcium (Ca) ion and a phosphate (P) ion are reacted.

[0011] In the dry process, however, some unreacted substances may remain or a resultant powder has a poor sintering performance since the reaction proceeds non-uniformly. In the wet process, the temperature and pH should be adjusted precisely, and in some cases the ratio between Ca to P may be slightly deviated from the stoichiometric value and the product may contain a small amount of by-products. The characteristics of a material largely depend on the process in which it is produced, and a poor process leads to a failure in obtaining desired results in the stages of application and practical use, and no study in this respect has been made so far. Moreover, the state of the pores of porous β -TCP serves also as a factor which exerts an influence on the bone conductivity and the absorption performance.

[0012] It is an object of the present invention to provide an ideal artificial bone material which promotes osteogenesis by combining β-TCP with a cultured marrow cell.

55 DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

[0013] An artificial bone material according to claim 1 includes a porous ceramic consisting essentially of β -

tricalcium phosphate, and a marrow cell incorporated in the porous ceramic.

[0014] The invention of claim 2 is an artificial bone material according to claim 1, wherein the marrow cell is further combined with a cell growth factor contributing to osteogenesis.

[0015] The invention of claim 3 is an artificial bone material according to claim 1, wherein the porous ceramic has a porosity of 60% to 90% and includes macropore of size 50 μ m to 1,000 μ m that communicate to each other and micropores of size 2 μ m or less that communicate to each other.

[0016] The invention of claim 4 is an artificial bone material according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the porous ceramic is one produced by molding a β -tricalcium phosphate powder synthesized by a mechanochemical method as a raw material, and then sintering the resultant.

[0017] The invention of claim 5 is an artificial bone material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the marrow cell is a cultured cell collected from a patient and incubated. [0018] The invention of claim 6 is an artificial bone material according to claim 5, wherein the cultured cell is one subjected to at least one selected from the group consisting of electric stimulation and mechanical stimulation during incubation.

[0019] The invention of claim 7 is an artificial bone material according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the cultured cell is one inoculated into an inside of the porous ceramic by at least one of or a combination of (a) to (c):

- (a) inoculating the cultured cell under reduced pressure or increased pressure;
- (b) inoculating the cultured cell with reducing and increasing the pressure alternatingly; and,
- (c) inoculating the cultured cell with exerting a centrifugal force.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

[0020] The artificial bone material according to the present invention includes a porous ceramic consisting of β -TCP and a marrow cell incorporated by inoculation in the porous ceramic. The morphology of the porous ceramic may be in the form of, for example, a block or granule.

[0021] In order to ensure the introduction of cells into the central portion of the porous ceramic, the cultured marrow cells are inoculated in the porous ceramic under reduced pressure or increased pressure, with reducing and increasing the pressure alternatingly or with exerting a centrifugal force. In such a manner, the marrow cells can be introduced into the central portion of the porous ceramic. In this procedure, it is effective to use a plurality of such means in combination.

[0022] In addition, at least one selected from the group consisting of electric stimulation or mechanical stimulation such as application of electric field, isotropic

pressure or shock wave during the incubation of cells increases the cell growth rate, so that the activity of cells is maintained.

[0023] The vascularization in the porous ceramic becomes possible by combining an inducing factor that contributes to the vascularization, such as VEGF, with a marrow cell. In such a case, it is preferable to combine the inducing factor by gene transduction using a VEGF expression vector.

[0024] Also, combining in addition to the cultured cell, not only VEGF but also a cell growth factor that contributes to osteogenesis can accomplish a more preferable osteogenesis. For example, cell growth factors that contribute to osteogenesis, such as BMP, FGF, TGF- β , IGF and PDGF, can be employed to ensure the osteogenesis

[0025] An artificial bone material in which a porous ceramic consisting of β -TCP is combined with a cultured marrow cell can promote osteogenesis. The β -TCP in this artificial bone material is one having a high purity and excellent bone conductivity and absorption performance.

[0026] The porous ceramic consisting of β -TCP, includes macropores that communicate to each other and micropores that communicate to each other and are smaller than the macropores, and the porous ceramic has a porosity of preferably 60% to 90%. The size of the macropores is preferably 50 μ m to 1,000 μ m, more preferably 100 μ m to 500 μ m. The macropores are present in an amount of preferably about 30% to 70% based on the void volume ratio of the entire pores. The macropores contribute to the introduction of marrow cells in the ceramic and to vascularization.

[0027] The micropores have a size of preferably 0.2 μm or less, more preferably 0.1 μm or less. The micropores are present in an amount of preferably about 10% to 40% based on the void volume ratio of the entire pores. The micropores contribute to promoting a chemical effect such as susceptibility to absorption.

[0028] As a highly pure β -TCP, one produced by a mechanochemical method, which is a wet process pulverization method, is excellent as a component of a material employed as a prosthetic material of a bone tissue. In this mechanochemical method, calcium carbonate and calcium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate are weighed in such amounts that the molar ratio of Ca to P is 1.5 and these powder are subjected to a wet pulverization method using a ball mill to obtain a slurry which is then dried and sintered at 720°C to 900°C to obtain β -TCP. By this method, the ratio of Ca to P can be controlled on the basis of the weighed amount of the raw material, and β -TCP having a high purity and an excellent sintering performance can be obtained.

[0029] A porous ceramic consisting of β -TCP having excellent bone conductivity and absorption performance is produced as described below. To a β -TCP powder obtained by a wet pulverization method is added a surfactant (deflocculating agent) and molded as a wet

foam, which is then dried and sintered at 950°C to 1,050°C to form a porous article. By this method, a porous ceramic which has a porosity of 60% to 90% and includes macropores of size 50 μm to 1,000 μm consisting of plural pores communicating to each other at a void volume ratio of 30% to 70% based on the entire pores and micropores consisting of plural proes communicating to each other of size 2 μm or less at a void volume ratio of 10% to 40% based on the entire pores can be obtained.

[0030] By combining a porous ceramic consisting of β -TCP and a marrow cell to form an artificial bone material as described above, an artificial bone material that can promote osteogenesis satisfactorily can be obtained.

(Example 1)

[0031] A calcium carbonate powder and calcium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate were weighed in the molar ratio of 1:2, and placed in a ball mill pot together with pure water, and mixed and pulverized for about one day using a ball mill. The resultant slurry was dried at about 80° C, and then sintered at 750°C. The resultant powder was a highly pure β - TCP ceramic having an excellent sintering performance.

[0032] To the powder were added pure water, an ammonium acrylate-based deflocculating agent, and a polyoxyethylene alkylphenyl ether-based surfactant, and then the resultant was mixed and stirred to obtain a foamed slurry. This foamed slurry was dried and then sintered at 1,050°C to obtain a β -TCP porous ceramic. The porous ceramic had a porosity of 75%, and a pore size distributed within two ranges, namely, 100 m μ to 500 m μ and 1 m μ to 0.1 m μ .

(Second Example 2)

[0033] Using the β -TCP porous ceramic produced in Example 1 as a foothold material, marrow-derived osteoblast-like primary culture cells were inoculated and subjected to in vitro culture to form a bone tissue serving as a seed for osteogenesis. The bone tissue was implanted into a living body, and then the implanted tissue was allowed to form a large amount of a bone tissue. Specific procedure is described as follows.

[0034] Marrow cells were taken, transferred into a culture flask, to which an MEM medium supplemented with 10% to 15% FBS (fetal bovine serum) was added, and incubated for about 10 days under a 5% $\rm CO_2$ atmosphere at 37°C. Subsequently, the cells were peeled off from the culture flask by a trypsin treatment, and then inoculated to a porous ceramic consisting of β -TCP in the form of a block. As a medium, an MEM medium containing 10 to 15% FBS (fetal bovine serum) was employed.

[0035] The cell density for the inoculation to a block of 5 mm \times 5 mm \times 5 mm was required to be 1,000,000

cells or more per cubic centimeter of medium. After incubation for 1 hours to 3 hours under a 5% CO2 atmosphere at 37°C, the medium was exchanged with an MEM medium containing 10% to 51% FBS (fetal bovine serum) as a base medium to which 10-8 M dexamethasone, 10 mM β-glycerophosphate, and 50µg/ml ascorbic acid had further been supplemented, and then the incubation was conducted for about 2 weeks under a 5% CO₂ atmosphere at 37°C with exchanging the medium at intervals of 2 days. Subsequently, the cells together with the block were implanted into a living body. [0036] Thereafter, a bone marrow fluid taken from a thigh bone of a Fisher rat was incubated as described above and inoculated onto a block consisting of a β-TCP porous ceramic. The inoculated porous ceramic was incubated for 2 weeks, implanted subcutaneously into another Fisher rat, and isolated after 3 weeks. The isolated implant was examined by HE staining, which revealed satisfactory osteogenesis.

(Example 3)

[0037] A cell growth factor was adsorbed onto the β -TCP porous ceramic produced in Example 1 to effect inoculation. As the cell growth factor, each of VEGF, BMP, FGF, FGF- β , IGF and PDGF was employed. Then an <u>in vitro</u> culture was performed to form a bone tissue serving as a seed for osteogenesis. The bone tissue was implanted into a living body, and then the implanted tissue was allowed to form a large amount of a bone tissue. Specific procedure is described as follows.

[0038] Each cell growth factor described above was taken, transferred into a culture flask, to which an MEM medium supplemented with 10% to 15% FBS (fetal bovine serum) was added, and incubated for about 10 days under a 5% CO_2 atmosphere at 37°C. Subsequently, the cells were peeled off from the culture flask by a trypsin treatment, and then inoculated to a porous ceramic consisting of β -TCP in the form of a block. As a medium, an MEM medium containing 10% to 15% FBS (fetal bovine serum) was employed.

[0039] For the inoculation, techniques in which each cell growth factor was inoculated under reduced pressure, inoculated under increased pressure and inoculated with reducing and increasing the pressure alternatingly were conducted, respectively, together with a method in which a centrifugal force was applied, and samples under respective inoculation conditions were prepared.

[0040] The concentration of a cell growth factor for the inoculation to a block of 5 mm \times 5 mm \times 5 mm was required to be 1,000,000 cells or more per cubic centimeter of medium. After incubation for 1 to 3 hours under a 5% CO₂ atmosphere at 37°C, the medium was exchanged with an MEM medium containing 10% to 15% FBS (fetal bovine serum) as a base medium to which 10^{-8} M dexamethasone, 10 mM β -glycerophosphate, and 50 μ g/ml ascorbic acid had further been supple-

15

25

35

mented, and then the incubation was conducted for about 2 weeks under a 5% $\rm CO_2$ atmosphere at 37°C with exchanging the medium at intervals of 2 days. Subsequently, the cells together with the block were implanted into a ,living body.

[0041] Thereafter, a bone marrow fluid taken from a thigh bone of a Fisher rat was incubated as described above, inoculated onto a block consisting of a $\beta\text{-TCP}$ porous ceramics, incubated for 2 weeks. The block was implanted subcutaneously into another Fisher rat, and isolated after 3 weeks. The isolated implant was examined by HE staining, which revealed satisfactory osteogenesis.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0042] As described above, the present invention provides an artificial bone material that can promote osteogenesis satisfactorily by incorporating a marrow cell into a β -TCP porous ceramic. Also, by combining with a mechanical stimulation such as isotropic pressure or with a cell growth factor such as VEGF, the osteogenesis can further be ensured, resulting in an enhanced usefulness.

Claims

- An artificial bone material, comprising a porous ceramic consisting of β-tricalcium phosphate and a marrow cell incorporated in the porous ceramic.
- The artificial bone material according to claim 1, further comprising a cell growth factor that contributes to osteogenesis, combined with the marrow cell.
- 3. The artificial bone material according to claim 1, wherein the porous ceramic has a porosity of 60% to 90% and includes macropores of size 50 μm to 1,000 μm that communicate to each other and micropores of size 2 μm or less that communicate to each other.
- 4. The artificial bone material according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the porous ceramic is produced by molding a β -tricalcium phosphate powder synthesized by a mechanochemical method as a raw material, and then sintering the resultant.
- The artificial bone material according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the marrow cell is a cultured cell collected from a patient and incubated.
- 6. The artificial bone material according to claim 5, wherein the marrow cell is subjected to at least one selected from the group consisting of electric stimulation and mechanical stimulation during incubation.

- 7. The artificial bone material according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the marrow cell is inoculated in the porous ceramic by means of at least one of or a combination of (a) to (c):
 - (a) inoculating the cultured cell under reduced pressure or increased pressure;
 - (b) inoculating the cultured cell with reducing and increasing the pressure alternatingly; and,(c) inoculating the cultured. cell with exerting a centrifugal force.

EP 1 378 256 A1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP02/02744

A CLAS	SIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		·
	C1 ⁷ A61L27/00, A61F2/28		
	to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both	national classification and IPC	
	S SEARCHED		
Int.	ocumentation searched (classification system follow C1 ⁷ A61L27/00, A61F2/28	ed by classification symbols)	
Documental	ion searched other than minimum documentation to	the extent that such documents are include	ed in the fields searched
Electronic d	ata base consulted during the international search (na	ame of data base and, where practicable, so	carch terms used)
C. DOCUI	MENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where	appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	JP 8-112341 A (The Japan St 07 May, 1996 (07.05.96), Full text (Family: none)	eel Works, Ltd.),	1-7
Y	JP 2001-17454 A (Olympus Op 23 January, 2001 (23.01.01), Full text (Family: none)		1-7
Y	WO 99/59500 A2 (Cleveland C 25 November, 1999 (25.11.99) Full text & AU 9941994 A & US & EP 1085842 A2		2,5-7
× Further	documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	See patent family annex.	
Special categories of cited documents: "I" later document published after the international filing date or document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance artier document but published on or after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot is considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means P" document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention cannot is considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot is considered invention cannot is considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot is considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot is considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot is considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot is considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot is considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot is considered novel or cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot is considered novel or cannot be considered novel or cannot be			he application but cited to lerdying the invention claimed invention cannot be red to involve an inventive claimed invention cannot be p when the document is documents, such a skilled in the art family
	tual completion of the international search ne, 2002 (07.06.02)	Date of mailing of the international sear 25 June, 2002 (25.0	ch report 6.02)
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office Authorized officer			
acsimile No.		Telephone No.	
orm PCT/IS	A/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)		

EP 1 378 256 A1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP02/02744

	tion). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Ÿ	EP 987032 A1 (Isotis BV), 22 March, 2000 (22.03.00), Full text & AU 9947463 A & JP 2000-93504 A & CA 2282075 A & US 2002/35402 A	3-4
Y	<pre>JP 1-108143 A (Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.), 25 April, 1989 (25.04.89), Full text (Family: none)</pre>	4
Y	JP 10-243996 A (Japan Science and Technology Corp.), 14 September, 1998 (14-09.98), Full text (Family: none)	5-7

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (July 1998)